

14: John Crossland Coyle

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: J. Coyle

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 13th Bn. Cheshire Regiment

Service Number: W/1244 Date of Death: 14 May 1916 Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Aubigny-en-Artois, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

Additional information given by CWGC: None

John Crossland Coyle was the eldest surviving child of bricklayer Thomas and Mary Jane Coyle. Although Thomas had been born in Liverpool, and Mary Jane Bradley in Chirk, they married St Mary's Church, Birkenhead, in late 1880 and in the 1881 census the couple, both 21, were recorded as living in Poplar Weint (off Park Street) in Neston.

Their first child, Margaret Ann, was baptised at Neston 13 February 1882 but died aged 6 weeks and was buried 20 March 1882. John Crossland Coyle, their second child, was baptised in the parish church on 22 June 1883 although his birth was not registered until the 3rd quarter of the year. Thomas and Mary went on to have a further nine children of whom only two survived beyond infancy:

Thomas William	bpt 12 Oct 1884		survived
Nessie	bpt 11 July 1886	buried 4 October 1886	[aged 3 months]
James Ernest Wilfrid	bpt 24 May 1889	buried 24 August 1889	[aged 3 months]
Charles Gordon	bpt 20 Feb 1891	buried 18 May 1894	[aged 3]
Herbert Henry	bpt 8 May 1892	buried 21 July 1892	[aged 4 months]
Albert	bpt 21 Aug 1893	buried 30 October 1893	[aged 3 months]
Alan Ferguson	bpt 14 April 1895	buried 29 June 1895	[aged 3 months]
Andrew Reginald	born 12 February 1898	bpt 4 March 1898	survived
[one deceased child unknown]			

At the time of the 1891 census the family was living on Raby Road, Neston. Mary had already lost at least three children:

Thomas Coyle	Head	M.	32	bricklayer	born Liverpool
Mary J. Coyle	Wife	M.	32		born Chirk
John C. Coyle	Son		8		born Neston
Thomas W. Coyle	Son		7		born Neston
Charles G. Coyle	Son		1 month		born Neston
De.					
De.					
De.					

1891 census (extract) – Raby Road, Neston

Thomas Coyle	32	bricklayer	born Liverpool
Mary J.	32		born Chirk
John C.	8		born Neston
Thomas W.	7		born Neston
Charles G.	1 month		born Neston

In 1901 the family was still living on Raby Road, Neston. Mary had now lost at least seven, probably eight, children:

33	20	1	4	Thomas Coyle	Head	M	41	Bricklayer	Worker	Liverpool, Lancashire
				Mary Jane Co	Wife	M	41			Chirk, N. Wales
				John Co	Son	S	17	Bricklayer	Worker	Neston - Cheshire
				Thomas Co	Co	S	16	Shop messenger	'Butcher'	Co Co
				Reginald Co	Co		3			Co Co

1901 census (extract) – Raby Road, Neston

Thomas Coyle	41	bricklayer	born Liverpool
Mary Jane	41		born Chirk
John	17	bricklayer	born Neston
Thomas	16	shop messenger, 'butcher'	born Neston
Reginald	3		born Neston

John Crossland Coyle married Alice Taylor in Liverpool in early 1908 and in 1911 the family was living on Park Street, Neston:

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.															
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.															
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.															
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday and Sex	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.		
<p>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who</p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>															
<p>State whether—</p> <p>"Single," "Married," "Widow," or "Servant."</p> <p>For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.</p> <p>Write "Single," "Married," "Widow," or "Servant" opposite the name of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.</p> <p>For each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—</p> <p>Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)</p> <p>Children born alive who were "Born" in Column 7.</p> <p>Children who have died.</p> <p>Children who have been adopted.</p> <p>Children who have been fostered.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a trade or profession.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a craft or manual occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a clerical or literary occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a scientific or artistic occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a medical or surgical occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a legal or judicial occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a religious or ecclesiastical occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a military or naval occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a mercantile or commercial occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a manufacturing or industrial occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a domestic or household occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a service or menial occupation.</p> <p>Children who have been apprenticed to a profession or occupation not specified above.</p>															
1	John Coyle	Head	27	Married	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2	Alice Coyle	Wife	27	Married	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	Mary Coyle	Daughter	4	Single											
4	Mary Coyle	Daughter	2	Single											
5	Ronald Coyle	Son	9 months	Single											

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Total.	
Males	Females
2	3
5	

Totals of Enumerators: *John Coyle*

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Bathrooms, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *John Coyle*

Postal Address: *Park Street Neston*

1911 census (condensed) – Park Street, Neston

John Coyle	27	brick layer	born Neston
Alice	27		born Neston
Mary	4		born Heswall
May	2		born Neston
Ronald	9 months		born Neston

John and Alice had been married for 4 years and all three of their children had survived.

No evidence has been found of the birth registration of Mary Coyle although a Mary Isobel Taylor was registered on Wirral in early 1907 and a Mary *Isabell* Coyle married Thomas Ernest Davies in Heswall in mid-1931. There is no other record for a Mary *Isobel* Taylor. Additionally, it does not seem that Alice Taylor had been married

previously so it would appear that Mary was illegitimate, born about a year before John and Alice married, and that her surname was then amended to Coyle.

In 1911 John's mother was recorded also in Park Street:

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.															
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.															
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.															
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.		
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Total Children born alive.	Children who have died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	State whether— (1) "British subject by parentage," (2) "Naturalized British subject," giving year of naturalization. (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	If any person included in this Schedule is:— (1) "Totally Dead," or "Dead and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
1. Mary Jane Coyle	Wife	51	Married 30	11	3	8			Scholar 39d				Chirk Denbyshire	British	
2. Andrew Reginald Coyle	Son	13	Single										Neston Cheshire	British	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that— (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column. (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons. (3) After making the necessary inquiries I have ascertained all persons on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: *AW*

Total.		
Males	Females	Persons
1	1	2

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Parlours, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count sanitary, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

6

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Mary Jane Coyle*

Postal Address: *Park Street Neston Cheshire*

1911 census (condensed) – Park Street, Neston

Mary Jane Coyle	51	born Chirk
Andrew Reginald	13	scholar born Neston

Mary and Thomas had been married for 30 years and only three of their eleven children had survived. The location of both Thomas snr and Thomas jnr at the time of the 1911 census has not been determined.

It is believed that John and Alice had (in addition to Mary) four children:

May - registered as Dorothy May in late 1908 she married Harold Joseph Whittall at Neston Parish Church in mid-1935. Nothing further is known of her or their family although Harold may have died in Kingston-upon-Thames in early 1971.

Ronald Crossland - was registered in late 1910 on Wirral and he married Rachel Leighton in a Civil Marriage on Wirral in mid-1934. Nothing further is known of the family although it is believed that they had a number of children. They have not been found in the 1939 Register.

Elizabeth J. Coyle - born July / September 1912 and buried at Neston parish church aged 12 months, on 19 August 1913, when recorded as living on Leighton Road.

Lille - born late 1914, she married Robert Simister in July / September 1936 at Neston Parish Church. It is believed that they had two children, both registered on Wirral: Gillian M Simister (born mid-1938) and Michael R Simister (born mid-1945). The family has not been found in the 1939 Register.

It is believed that John Coyle enlisted in Birkenhead and it is surprising that there is no fuller report of John Coyle's death in local newspapers; it is also not known why the newspaper notification of his death requests 'Canadian Papers please copy'. John Coyle was serving with the 13th Battalion Cheshire Regiment when he died on 14 May 1916 aged 33.

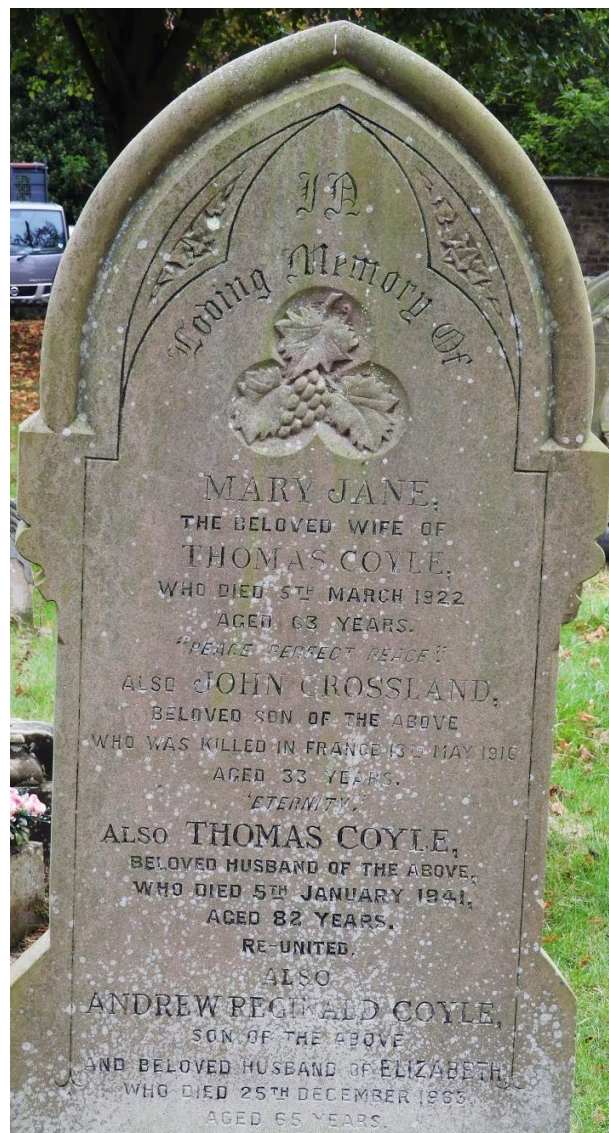
The 13th (Service) Battalion, Cheshire Regiment (the 'Wirral Battalion') was raised in Port Sunlight on 1 September 1914 by Gershom Stewart, MP. Although a recruitment campaign in Port Sunlight, and Levers' soap Works, produced a large influx of new troops recruitment was Wirral-wide and local recruitment offices were established in many local towns. As John's name is not listed on the Port Sunlight War Memorial it is probable that he was not employed by Lever Brothers when he recruited.

The battalion moved to Chester and joined the 74th Brigade, 25th Division in Kitchener's Third New Army. The Division assembled in the area around Salisbury for training and the 13th Cheshires spent the winter in billets in Bournemouth.

The division moved to Aldershot in May 1915 for final training before proceeding to France on



25 September 1915 and were concentrated in the area of Nieppe. Their first action was in defence of the German attack on Vimy Ridge on 21 May 1916 although John had died from wounds one week earlier. As there was no significant



The family gravestone at Neston parish church records that Mary Jane Coyle died, aged 63, on 5 March 1922 and that Thomas Coyle died 5 January 1941 aged 82.

Andrew Reginald Coyle [died 25 December 1963 aged 65], husband of Elizabeth, is also buried here and the gravestone also commemorates 'John Crossland....who was killed in France 13 May 1916 aged 33 years'. There is a one-day discrepancy between this date and the 'official' date of John's death, 14 May.

action around the time of John's death it is most probable that he had been wounded some time earlier, or he was injured as a consequence of a 'local' action. However, as his Service Record has not been found none of the details of John's army service or circumstances of his death are known.

Andrew Reginald Coyle, John's youngest brother, served as a driver with the Army Service Corps. in WW1; he survived and died in 1963. In the 1939 Register (29 September) he was recorded as having been born 13 February 1898 and was then a licensed victualler at the Greenland Fishery Hotel in Neston. In early 1923 Andrew had married Elizabeth M Parry (born 2 May 1903) in the Wrexham district and in 1939 Andrew's father, retired bricklayer Thomas, (born 1 October 1857) was with them. Thomas died, aged 82, in January 1941 and is buried in the family grave in Neston Cemetery.

Thomas William Coyle (born 11 September 1884), John's other brother, was recorded in the 1939 register as being a builder's labourer living at 6 Rushmere Road in the Norris Green district of Liverpool. With him was his wife, Laura (born 3 September 1878), although it is not known when they were married. It is also not known when Thomas died although Laura died in North Liverpool, aged 82, in mid-1960.

John's widow, Alice Coyle (born 5 May 1883), was living at 23 Chester Road, Neston, at the time of the 1939 Register and she died on Wirral in late 1967 aged 84.

Lillian Simister, John and Alice's daughter, is believed to have died in Colwyn Bay in July / September 1982 aged 70 although it is not known when her husband, Robert, died.

302707	8/1950 ¹³	Coyle John	13 th Bn 14-5-18 Shrewsbury 2 15 6.	2 15 6	14/10 7/16	26-7-16	Mid-Sole legatee 2 15 6	
			Cheshire Home 6/16				Alice	
			Regt 507				28-8-19 wid Sol leg. 5 10 -	
			Pte Brown				Alice	
			1244					
				5 6 -				
30 JUN 1910								
		A 7 11/50 sent						
			WAR GRATUITY. 1920. 7.7.19 Transfer 5124/1 Honorarium 2/2000 Serial No. 4754 15.					
			18 JUN 1919					

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid.

John Coyle had accrued a credit of £2 15s 6d and this was received by his widow Alice, as sole legatee. Alice received also the £5 10s War Gratuity.

The total payment, £8 5s 6d, is approximately equivalent to a *labour value* (ie wages) of about £1250 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

John Crossland Coyle is buried at Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension at Aubigny-en-Artois, a village approximately 15 km north-west of Arras.

Before March, 1916, Aubigny was in the area of the French Tenth Army, and 327 French soldiers were buried in the Extension to the West of what is now Plot IV. From March 1916 to the Armistice, Aubigny was held by Commonwealth troops and burials were made in the Extension until September 1918. The 42nd Casualty Clearing Station buried in it during the whole period, the 30th in 1916 and 1917, the 24th and 1st Canadian in 1917 (during the capture of Vimy Ridge by the Canadian Corps) and the 57th in 1918. The Extension now contains 2,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War....

[CWGC]

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regt. No.
COYLE.	Ches: P.	Pt.	W/1244.
John.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	J/2/101 ^b	194	D.F.W. 14.5.16.
BRITISH	do -	do	
15 STAR	J/2/101.	103.	
Theatre of War first served in	C. France.		
Date of entry therein	25.9.15.		

British Army WWI
Medal Rolls Index
Cards, 1914-1920

ROLL OF HONOUR.

COYLE- In loving memory of John Coyle of the 13th Cheshires, the dearly-loved husband of Alice Coyle, who died from wounds, in a hospital, May 14, aged 33 years. (He did his duty.)—From his sorrowing Wife. (Canadian papers please copy.)

Liverpool Daily Post - Wednesday 24 May 1916. A similar announcement appeared in the Liverpool Echo on Monday 22 May 1916.

Liverpool Daily Post - Monday 5 June 1916

DIED OF WOUNDS.
Cheshire Regiment.—Coyle, 1244, J. (Neston, Cheshire); Norris, 394, R. (Liverpool); Williams, 387,